

MINI-CASSIA DIRECT SEED & COVER CROP PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Place: Burley Field Office

Date: February 26th 2019

Time: 11:00 am

Presiding: Richard Kunau

Supervisors Present:

Brian Kossman
Dusty Wilkins
Justin Hunter

Mark Webb
Brent Stoker

Richard Kunau - Chairman
Russ Suchan – Vice Chairman
Ken Woodworth – Treasurer

Employees and Agency Representatives:

Districts: Jessica Anderson, *Admin Asst.* Sharon Wilmot, *Admin Asst.* Megan Heward, *Admin Asst.*
NRCS: David Mabey, *DC* Haydn Carson, *Soil Tech*

ACTION ITEMS:

- I. **Call to order** - Richard called the meeting to order at 11:06 am
- II. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – The committee review the previous minutes. Brent motioned to approve the minutes, Ken seconded. Motion carried.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report** – The committee reviewed the treasurer’s report. Ken motioned to approve the report. Brian seconded. Motion Carried.
- IV. **Cover Crop Forum - Haydn Carson**
 - 1. Haydn presented an idea to the committee about a possibility of some type of Cover Crop Forum – a way to gather information from local farms who are trying cover crops and record their outcomes. The committee discussed the possibility of a survey and ways to incentives farms filling it out and how to incorporate into our workshop next year.
 - 2. David presented an idea that will be presented to Division IV districts regarding data gathering from local farmers across Division IV Districts. The Division and DV would like to find 2-3 cooperators to test soils (anonymously reporter) over 5 years so we can compare conventional vs. experimental lands. The idea is to create a baseline for the Division IV region with consistently gather research for moving forward and proving good outcomes with new soil health practices. The idea is to have the Districts of Division IV cover the cost for the soils test as the districts should be facilitating these new practices and research to help prove (or disprove) the results of soil health practices. This idea will be discussed at the Division IV meeting.
- V. **Drill Repairs (issues with Stotz)**
 - a. Get written estimate before work is done.
 - b. Sharon and Jessica informed the board of the concerns with recent bill and their discussion with Stotz. Still waiting to hear back from them on correcting some billed items.
- VI. **Seed Rebates:** The committee reviewed 2018 seed rebates and funds for 2019 year.

\$32,400	Seed Money
<u>\$21,727</u>	Paid Out
\$10,673	Balance in Account For Seed Rebates

 - a. 2015 \$ 5,544.50
 - b. 2016 \$ 7,065.00
 - c. 2017 \$ 1,132.50
 - d. 2018 \$ 7,985.00 (some checks were written in January 2019)

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VII. Review of 2019 Soil Health WORKSHOP

The committee discussed the desire to see more information presented from local farmer or farms that pertain more closely with the type of farming that is done in this region. Though the speakers we get from the Midwest are great, they don't deal with our same conditions and some of the practices that are talked about are not easily implemented in our region. The committee would like to tailor or workshop to help our regional farms implement soil health – not just provide information. The committee would like the opportunity to try and create a local “soil health specialist” someone like Jay Fuhrer – but for our area.

VIII. 2020 Workshop: Will discuss these items in a later meeting when Doreen is present.

- a. Corporate presenter on sustainability for consumers,
- b. Concerns for cover crops for potato and grain growers
- c. Crop advisory credit along with pesticide credits.
- d. Speaker ideas

IX. Supplies to Order:

Printer ink, folders (color front-our info on them - approx.90 ea. if ordering 1,000), 3 mini tripods to record workshop sessions, Kensington dual digital pointers, new projector w HDMI plugs (\$400-800), HDMI/USB adapter, matching shirts for committee/board/admins, lanyards, other needs...

The committee reviewed items that the admins thought were needed. Dusty motioned to purchase the following: ink for printers, 3 phone tripods, and stamps for each office. Brent seconded. Motion carried. Other items to be reviewed at next meeting.

X. Employee Bonus : Will discuss at future meeting

- XI. Supervisor Reports:** An issues has arisen with the Minidoka Drill with an unpaid bill. The committee discussed the need for a collection policy and wording in the drill rental agreement.
Mark motioned to add a collection policy onto the drill rental contract. Ken seconded. Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

XII. Cassia High School Students’ “Career Exploration Project”.

Dates: Feb 28, Mar 7, Mar 21

Time: 8:30-10:00 am (3-4 students ea. visit, they can be put to work)

Adjourn: Russ motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mark second. Meeting adjourn at 11:48am.

Respectfully Submitted By: Jessica Anderson, Admin

Note: The Board may hold an executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters pursuant to St Idaho Code § 67-2345.

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